



Ebon City: Death and the Maiden

Leo Featherstone

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(Second Edition, Hardcover)

The vampire Ezekiel has lived for over four hundred years, satiating his bloodlust by killing evildoers. Plagued with the deaths he's caused and tormented by his vampire kin, Ezekiel travels the world and surrounds himself with art and theatre to distract himself from his infernal existence. Settling in the gothic city of Ebon, he meets an inexperienced psychic named Angela Thorn who possesses destructive magic beyond her control. Feeling sympathy for the tormented young woman, Ezekiel takes her under his wing and teaches her how to control her powers. Romance ignites between them, and Ezekiel breaks vampire law by revealing his identity to Angela, incurring the wrath of his fellow vampires.

Ebon City: Death and the Maiden Details

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Author : Leo Featherstone

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From Reader Review Ebon City: Death and the Maiden for online ebook

Jason Parent says

A return to the gothic vampire. Thank God.

At its heart, Ebon City is traditional love story with a horror setting. The story itself is written well, with a steady plot that offers a few surprises.

I found the cover misleading. I was thinking YA, like a vampire Beauty and the Beast, but this book is for an adult audience.

Some similarities to Rice's Interview with a Vampire, particularly to Louis the reluctant bloodsucker. For those who enjoy old-school vampire reads, this one may work for you.

3.5 stars.

Karen M says

This is not your typical Hollywood vampire love story, at least not yet. This vampire does not glitter or glimmer in sunlight, in fact, he is paralyzed during daylight. He does not have retractable fangs so when he smiles he does so with his lips closed. He has pointed ears which are elfin in appearance which he covers with his long hair. His hands are black taloned claws covered in coarse black hair which he covers with gloves. His eyes are deep blue and rimmed with red when he begins to lose control. He dresses impeccably, drives a flash car, lives in a penthouse apartment, sings opera, paints beautifully, and rids the city of the bad guys. Okay, he kills the bad guys by sucking the life out of them. He is a vampire with a concern for humanity and a conscience that won't permit him to kill the innocent, only the guilty.

He is the hero and the heroine is a twenty-two year old with secrets of her own. They are drawn together and slowly we learn of their pasts and the threats to their future.

I don't believe in telling the story when I review a book because the author has done a much better job than I could and in this case the author has obviously done a lot of research and has produced one of the best vampire stories I have ever read.

The author's characters are interesting and complex and flawed which only makes the story more unusual. I highly recommend this book.

This book was won as a First Reads giveaway.

William O'Brien says

Unique and beautifully complex 5*****

Ebon City: Death and the Maiden by Leo Featherstone

A fantastic and very well written fantasy vampire read combining all the essential elements you want to see!

Romance of the heart with biting vampire action draws you into the pages of this book. Suitable for adult and young adult readers that adore a classic vampire style and supernatural magical lore.

Lovers of Gothic tales should latch onto this one as it grabs hold with its claws and takes you to unknown lands ready to be devoured! Featherstone has created a unique piece of work with a beautiful complexity formed from vampirism and a scientific background - it will give you something to think about!

Highly developed characters and strong detail makes this an excellent read 5*****

Jolene Dretzka says

I received a copy of this book from a Goodreads giveaway.

I Loved it! It was a smart & modern nod to Bram Stokers, Dracula. The author divided the chapters up into sections based on each persons point of view, time of day & journal entries. You don't see many books written like that anymore & made it for a fun & comfortable read. Though I say it is a smart & modern nod to the book Dracula, I do not believe he has stolen anything from Bram Stoker, but instead simply borrowed a concept of writing & made it his own. Leo Featherstone is obviously a well read & educated young man & it is reflected in his story with many references to architecture, literature, history, art & mythology. He even has a better grasp on clothing, both male & female then I will ever have, LOL. I enjoyed the Gothic backdrop & the added excitement of someone with the powers of Angela. This book had me riveted from the beginning & I didn't want to put it down. I can't wait read the next book he has in store for us. They say they did a giveaway of this book to get copies of the new cover they designed in circulation. I have to say that while the new cover is leaps & bounds better than the first, & lets remember we mustn't judge a book by its cover, I feel that whoever designed it may have printed it a little on the dark side causing some of the detail to be lost in the extreme shadowing. Aside from that, I did find the fact they put the author bio on the front sleeve of the dust-jacket & the book description on the back a little weird, but I can forgive all this for how wonderful Leo Featherstone's writing is. Certainly a book I could read over & over again & I feel myself to be a harsh critic of vampire novels. These are not the beautiful vampires of teen novels, these are gritty vampires with real emotions. Even better is the rather new concept, at least to me, of a vampire with facial hair. Thank you Leo Featherstone for giving us a new type of vampire to love ;-)

Natalie says

I received this book through Goodreads First Reads.

They always say "don't judge a book by it's cover," but I totally did in this case. I took one look at the

artwork and was rolling my eyes. I'm afraid that colored my initial perception of the book. I was expecting the story to be equally ridiculous.

Ezekiel is an artistically inclined vampire. Angela is the budding artist/closet witch, that dreams about him and then meets him at a, you guessed it, museum, where Ezekiel's work is being showcased. What follows is a drama-laced whirlwind romance that involves dangerous vampires, typical misunderstandings, and lots of "milady's".

It is a paranormal-romance, and as with most books in the genre, I've come to expect a certain amount of silliness, it's just the nature of the beast, I suppose. I wasn't expecting much more than the normal amount of shenanigans, and there were plenty of those, but there was something different to the tone. I found myself wishing that I was in a dark castle, reading by candlelight, because that seemed the only appropriate setting. The vampires were of the Bram Stoker variety, and it was a refreshing return to the pointy-eared shape shifters. Angela was very young, and while I would've appreciated a more mature female companion, she wasn't half-bad.

I liked the switching perspectives. It kept the story moving swiftly along. I did not enjoy the excerpts from Ezekiel's diary, because, as I've mentioned before, I hate flashbacks. The parts describing Ezekiel's past, as told through his diary, were tedious and I found myself skimming most of them.

I debated back and forth on the rating. The cover definitely gets 1 star. (Maybe 1.5, cause I'm feeling generous.) I settled on a four, because I thought it was mostly unique, in a genre that has been overdone a thousand times. It's pretty melodramatic, but once you accept that it's going to be a soap-opera type of story, and start ignoring all the times Ezekiel calls Angela milady, it's quite enjoyable.

Looking forward to #2!

*Thanks for the copy!

Brie says

I won this book in a Goodreads First Reads contest.

It was not a bad book. I did find it did not flow as well when it came to the story as I would have liked. I also felt a bit amused by the interaction of the main characters (Ezekiel and Angela) since their growing love was a bit over-the-top. Those two things kept me from totally enjoying the book to the extent I would have liked to.

I LOVED the back story behind the main vampire character, Ezekiel. The trips to the character's past via memoir writing were something I wished there had been more of. If the whole book had been set in the past, I would have loved the book instead of merely liking it. That part of the book was extremely well done and could have been expanded to a whole book easily.

Overall, not a bad book and I am sure that people who enjoy vampire books would be interested in this book. Especially if they like vampires that are more traditional and do not sparkle.

Liza says

I won this book in a good reads giveaway.

First off I will say, this book is so good. I'm so happy I could cry.

After reading a lot of giveaway books that are mediocre, it's awesome to find one that I genuinely love.

Okay, enough of my blubbering, onward to the review itself!

So, first off, the cover is gorgeous.

I love the designs of the outfits and the colors and just everything about it. It's different from the usual covers on books today.

Anyway, moving on to the story itself. This book is told in first person for...everyone. Everyone that plays a role gets a chapter(except for one but I won't talk about that character because...spoilers)

Okay, now moving on. Because of the first-person viewpoint, you get a good idea of everyone's motives and ideas. Yes, some characters didn't get much as others but that is because they didn't matter as much as others. Focusing on the main duo, Angela is your typical wallflower heroine. She doesn't think she's much and finds herself average.

However, she has special powers that play plot importance. Even though she is very wallflower-y, it works well for her. I never found her annoying and she was actually smart about the various things and problems in her life. This is what I call good writing because if she is written wrong, this type of character can go into the annoying side but she never did that.

Ezekiel is a vampire.

Yay old school anime gif! Okay, so Ezekiel is like a typical vampire(as in old school, must suck blood and not sparkle kind) but the vampires do a twist in this story in the variety of powers they have. One thing I enjoyed is that Ezekiel has emotions. Like, he doesn't try to be strong all the time, he cries...a lot in the book. He's no guy that holds back his feelings and tries to be macho about everything. Also the sexuality of the vampires I like a lot and unlike a certain other book I read, I was more okay with the multiple-lovers thing this time(I attribute this to the good writing).

The plot starts off simple. Vampire guy and "normal" girl meet, fall in love and the usual happen.

(I would insert a gif for Twilight but I refuse to do such a thing)

Actually, thinking about it, the plot is actually pretty similar to Twilight in terms of what happens to Angela. Only this is much better done and I enjoyed all of it.

I'm going to just stick with that since this book is very good and I recommend people who like the romance/vampire/modern fantasy genres to read this book. You won't be disappointed! ^_^

Callie Browning says

The Good:

What could easily be a perplexing muddle of themes and concepts is a fresh wholistic experience under Leo Featherstone's careful watch. The characters are polished and believable, the plot beautifully paced and exciting.

The author flits seamlessly between various character's points of view, giving each of them their own unique voice, but I will say that this type of story telling isn't for everyone and may turn off some readers.

The Not So Good

I felt like the book read as too scientific and scholarly at times. I personally don't like being reminded about vampire facts ever so often - it felt a bit redundant at those times, breaking the pace and making the characters seem like school teachers.

The Familiar

There are a few parallel instances to Twilight and another book I once read in here. For that reason, I found myself being a bit distracted, trying to figure out if the situations in Ebon City would go the same way as the other books I read.

The Overview

Overall, I wouldn't hesitate to read another one of this author's books. I think with a little editing, his writing could be very sharp and vivid.

There is a bit of superfluous material in this book but without it, this book would make for an incredible read.

Karen says

[I found myself rooting for Ezekiel, wh

Stephen T Shores says

I myself have never read a vampire novel, so this being my first, I didn't know what to expect. I enjoyed this book. The author went into enormous detail for the backstory, which was tedious at times but very well-written. The characters are believable and the plot is excellent. The only complaint I have is the cover-the front and back covers look like a bad cartoon drawing, and that is a shame because the cover is the first thing people look at when they decide to purchase. If there is another printing, I would recommend that the author invest in a cover as good as the content of this novel.

I received a free review copy of this book through the Goodreads First Reads program.

Brianna says

I won this book in a goodreads giveaway. There are so many vampire book everywhere you look and I think the topic is getting a little overkilled. That aside, these are not your sparkly or whatever vampires people are coming up with, Featherstone has gone a little oldfashioned vamp on us. I approve. Although I like the Twilight books, I also like oldfashioned. After a few pages the book becomes a bit dull, but it doesn't take long for you interest to spike again. It was a very fun read and I really enjoyed this book.

Jeremy Belasco says

Certainly glad to see the true-to old Gothic vampires exist in the story world. Vampires have always been romanticized since they are mysterious and appear to never age, but that should be the outer perspective.

Ebon City is actually a more modern setting of vampires, while the story is written refreshingly as a perspective person point-of-view through journal entries, but I can't help feel the plot can be similarly compared to that of twilight's although obviously with a less girly vibe. Ezekiel is the main vampire within this story and Angela is a psychic. Angela dreams of Ezekiel and doesn't realize who he is till she meets him at his art exhibit. They seem to have an instant connection, that doesn't seem to have any explanation. Ezekiel feels like a young vampire to me, he's made his life yet hasn't mastered how to conceal and integrate into society without being questioned. The book itself is filled with information, not just on vampires, but about almost anything and everything that pops up in the story.

I would recommend this story to a person who prefers the darker side of vampires and yet loves a star-crossed romance. Personally, I prefer vampires with colder hearts.

Maria Kiguthi says

This book has a unique view on what traits a vampire has. I enjoyed the originality of the vampires in this story. The shifting perspectives is a difficult feat. I could easily follow who was the first person when the perspective changes. Though at times I felt like the characters sounded the same. The story also was told from different time frames. This was through the memoir of Ezekiel Blake and easily distinguished. The author did a great job in explaining the motivations of Ezekiel. I enjoyed the book. I received a copy through Goodreads First Reads.

Heidi The Hippie Reader says

I received a free (autographed) copy of this book through Goodreads First Reads. FTC guidelines: check!

I took one look at the cover of this book and thought "Campy. Ok, I can do campy." And it was, but not to the point where it was obnoxious or unreadable.

Ezekiel is a reluctant vampire (sound familiar) with a back story full of heartbreak and blood because, being a vampire and all, he has to eat or wither away to the point where he can't move until someone takes pity on him and gives him blood. So, he decides only to kill evil doers (sound familiar) and exist eternally on the damned while being damned. He falls for a telepathic/element bending, beautiful young and innocent woman (sound familiar). But, what is he going to do! He's not supposed to let anyone know about his existence or the other vampires will eliminate him and everyone he's allowed into his life (sound familiar). He predictably spills the beans in fifth chapter and the rest of the story is about keeping his love and himself alive.

Ok, so, as illustrated above, the plot isn't the strong point of this story. I thought that Featherstone was at his best when he was describing the "Gotham City/Ebon City" dark and brooding setting and during Ezekiel's depressing, but interesting, back story. The pacing of this left much to be desired, but I found myself really enjoying the (naturally faster paced) ending.

In character development, I think Featherstone waited too long to introduce Angela's back story when he handed us Honorato's at the very beginning and he's not even, what I would label, a central character.

The very best (and hilarious) part of this was when Thobias rips out Nathaniel's heart and its some kind of little demon creature that lives in the chest of every vampire and drives their need to drink blood and kill people. In my mind's eye, I saw a sort of malevolent but cuddly, fuzzy dice-type, bright red muppet thing with needle sharp teeth and glowing angry, but somehow adorable eyes. Featherstone foreshadowed the living demon heart with Ezekiel's experiences earlier in the book but it still struck me as unexpected and incredibly funny when it happened. Campy, see?

Fans of the Sookie Stackhouse series might enjoy this (slower paced) and fans of The Historian by Elizabeth Kostova might also like it.

Vicki says

I received a copy of this book in return for a honest review through Goodreads Firstreads Giveaways.

This was a richly atmospheric book, dark and lush in the best kind of ways. The vampires are truly scary and yet elegant at the same time. They harken back to the vampires of Bram Stoker and Anne Rice. They can transform into all manner of things as well as having a great number of powers depending on their distance from the original vampire. It is sort of like with every new generation they get weaker, much like the vampire of the masquerade ones.

Now on to the story, we begin with the vampire Ezekiel feeding and killing a young man as well as having a flashback of his transformation via his memoir. Shortly afterwards we are introduced to the inexperienced psychic Angela. She had been dreaming about Ezekiel without realizing who or what he is. She thought that he was just a figment of her imagination. These two eventually met at the city museum of art where Ezekiel is debuting some of his art under the assumed name of Edgar Blair. Ezekiel has made a life for himself over the years away from others of his kind. Though the second that Angela and Ezekiel meet, it is like they are two magnets pulling each other together. I know that it may sound a bit cheesy but it feels like they are meant to be.

Anyhow they have many obstacles to get through before they can have their happily ever ever. Angela finding out about his vampiric nature is one of them. There is also a dogged detective investigating Ezekiel

as well as his association with Angela. Then on top of this his vampiric family decides to come. They have a bone to pick with him for he has broken one of their most sacred rules, letting anyone know about their kind. So they have more than their share of problems and somehow they come out on top in the end.

I highly commend Mr. Featherstone on his choice of artist for this new cover. It just embodies the characters perfectly inside my head. I can't wait to see where things go in the next book or if they will run into the original vampire.
